

# CROP CIRCLES OF 2005

## *PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES*

***Bold angular formations, optical illusions and striking developments on previous themes graced the fields of England in the summer of 2005, while the media followed its obstinately biased line that all crop circles are man-made.***

**T**o most eyes, the 2005 crop circle season seemed bolder and more imaginative in its design sweep than the previous one. Though 2004 had been no disgrace, there appeared to be a new impetus and an adventurous nature behind the ever-evolving shapes that graced the fields this year.

Simultaneously, brand new forms of design were explored, while old styles were revisited in new and more advanced ways. There was a sense of previous boundaries being pushed—with everything from more than one crop formation crossing a road and continuing on into another field (not previously unheard of, but rare), to highly accurate optical illusions and an emphasis on harder, more angular forms like triangles and diamonds. As for the more traditional elements, these were taken to new levels—as seen in the formation near Avebury on 27th July, which had *four* Celtic crosses bound together in a striking, unified pattern.

A simple glance at the continuing ingenuity in the fields reveals just why the crop circle mystery refuses to go away. Perhaps the boldest new stroke of the phenomenon was the glyph at Lane End Down in Hampshire on 10th July, which appeared to represent a very three-dimensional rendition of what might be a mediaeval mace or a subatomic particle, dotted across liberally by many little circles.

However, as mentioned above, several patterns dispensed with circles completely this year—as seen in the entirely angular formation at the old haunt of Alton Priors, Wiltshire, on 3rd July, where even the tiny "grapeshot" circles were in fact squares.

A new crop was even broached this summer: the first formation ever to appear in borage (a herb with a blue/purple flower) arrived at Ludgershall, Wiltshire, on 3rd August, making for an unusual but colourful sight.

The formation which had caused the most fuss in 2004 was the astonishing, if controversial, "Mayan wheel". It appeared to embody Mayan symbols around its outer edge, prompting much speculation about its connection to the ancient prophecies and time cycles which point to the year 2012 as being a pivotal time of change. However, this year saw a number of further formations which some said tapped into this symbolism, though the most overt example was the very complex design which arrived at Wayland's Smithy in Oxfordshire on 9th August. Appropriately, Geoff Stray's long-awaited and comprehensive guidebook *Beyond 2012* (see <http://www.vitalsignspublishing.co.uk>) came out this summer, creating more awareness of the connection between crop glyphs and the 2012 phenomenon. The Wayland's Smithy mandala even made its way into one of the national newspapers (*Sunday Express*, 14th August), complete with talk of 2012 and ancient calendars.

How many of these amazing works are the result of more celestial sources and how many are the result of human planking are, of course, still questions that are hotly debated by those who feel the need to make the distinction. However, despite the astonishing range of ingenuity and accuracy seen in the fields, the UK media have been working hard to convince everyone that *all* this work is down to the industrious artists whom they never seem to stop talking about.

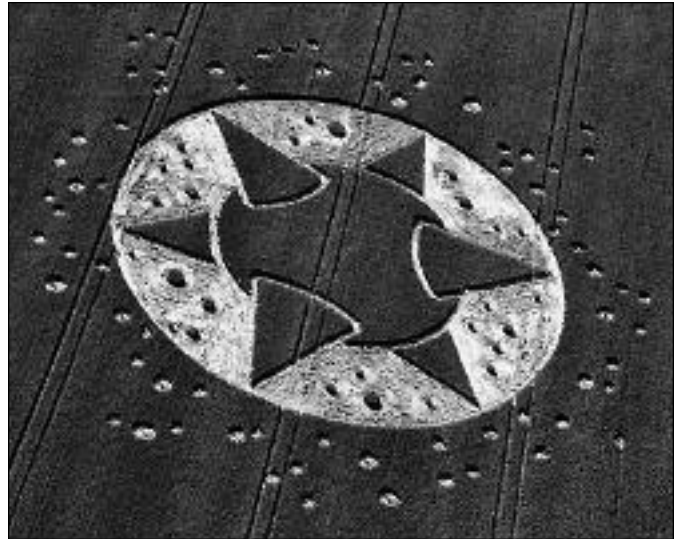
The *Daily Mail* (15th July), which for years has featured an annual spread of the latest circle photos with at least a modicum of ambivalence about their origins, went to the depths of crassness this year with a piece embarrassingly entitled "Corn Blimey!", in which it definitively—and untruthfully—stated that the glyphs were "once thought to be the work of aliens, but [are] now known to be intricate works of human art designed using computer technology". Note the word "known"—hardly!

by Andy Thomas © 2005

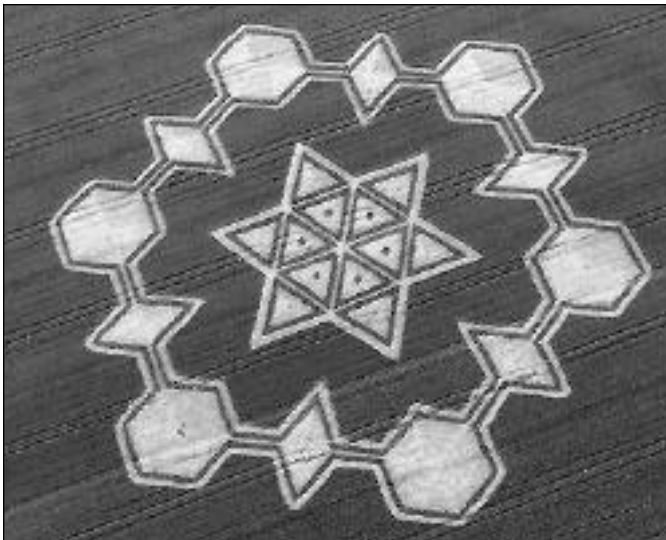
Swirled News  
Southern Circular Research  
3 Old House Courtyard  
Southover High Street  
Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1HT, UK  
Email: [info@swirlednews.com](mailto:info@swirlednews.com)  
Websites:  
<http://www.swirlednews.com>  
<http://www.vitalsignspublishing.co.uk>



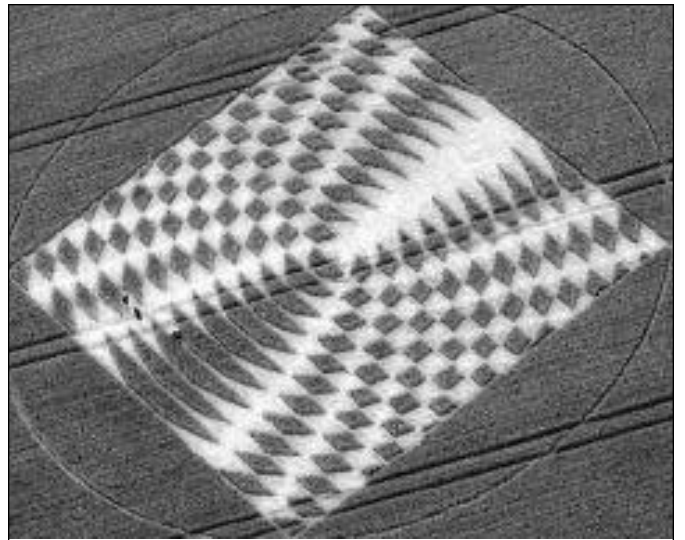
Avebury Manor, near Avebury, Wiltshire. Reported 27th July.  
Image: Steve Alexander © 2005.



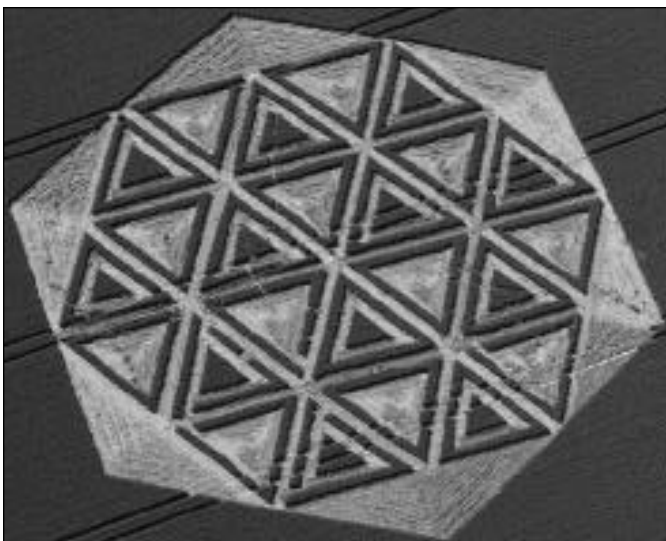
Lane End Down, near Winchester, Hampshire. Reported 10th July.  
Image: Lucy Pringle © 2005.



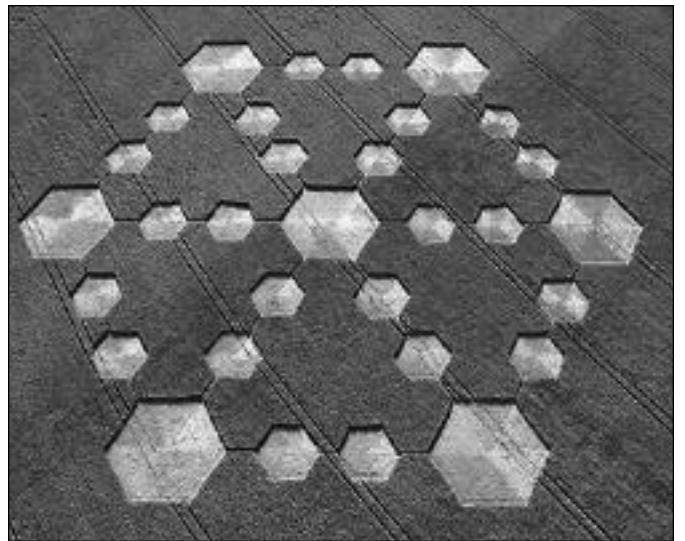
Avebury Henge, near Avebury, Wiltshire. Reported 24th July.  
Image: Crop Circle Connector © 2005.



Aldbourne, near Swindon, Wiltshire. Reported 24th July.  
Image: Crop Circle Connector © 2005.



Avebury Trusloe, near Beckhampton, Wiltshire.  
Reported 23rd June. Image: Crop Circle Connector © 2005.



Juggler's Lane, near Cherhill, Wiltshire. Reported 21st August.  
Image: Steve Alexander © 2005.

Meanwhile, the BBC missed another opportunity to at least define the phenomenon as an unknown quantity when it featured yet another human team making a crop circle. This was in a TV series, broadcast in July and presented by David Dimbleby, looking at the influence of the British landscape on artists down the ages. Again, the plankers were presented as, in effect, the only component of the mystery.

However, for all this scepticism and rhetoric, interest in the crop circles remained high, with large numbers of cerealogical visitors and tour groups roaming the fields of Wiltshire and beyond. The Glastonbury Symposium, for instance, the longest-running of all the crop circle gatherings, sold out faster than any previous year, and the summer managed to support at least four big circle-related events within just weeks (and in some cases days) of each other.

One of the most complex designs of the year was the astonishingly detailed mandala found not far from the famous white horse of Uffington in Oxfordshire on 13th August. This formation contained elements of many of the summer's themes all in one, almost as a summing-up of the season. There was a final flurry of ingenuity towards the end of August—in particular, an ornate scarab beetle-like emblem at Alton Priors on 21st August, and a very accurate display of nothing but hexagons at Cherhill the same night. These were the last formations at the time of writing.

There were about 70 crop patterns in the UK this summer—fewer than in some years, more than in others, and pretty much on a par with last year's 77 figure.

Meanwhile, other countries received their fair share of ingenious glyphs, too. However, in several countries including Germany, the circle-makers seem to have gone back to basics this year with simpler glyphs on the whole—the one exception being a German pictogram in the style of the famous 1990 types. In Italy, Poland and even Russia (where scientists have apparently declared that crop circles are the result of "lightning strikes", according to their media), they seem to have delved into more complexity. But there is no question that England remains the heart of the phenomenon, where its finest works continue to be etched in the fields.

Thus the crop circle phenomenon—with all its mysteries, paradoxes, controversies and quirks—continues unabated, and the journeys of the mind kicked off by the inner questioning inspired by the glyphs continue to take many people to new and unexpected places in their lives and thinking. Long may it reign—at least until 2012...

#### **About the Author :**

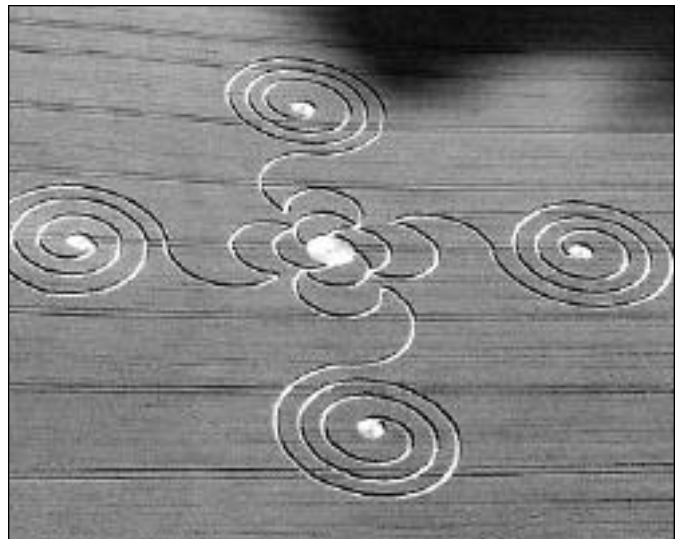
Andy Thomas is one of the world's foremost crop circle researchers and has written five books on the phenomenon, including *Vital Signs*, considered by many to be the definitive guide (see <http://www.vitalsignspublishing.co.uk>). A new edition of this book is being prepared for 2006 publication. Andy is also editor of the influential Swirled News website, <http://www.swirlednews.com>. He can be contacted by email at [info@swirlednews.com](mailto:info@swirlednews.com).

#### **Crop Circle Research Contacts :**

- Steve Alexander: <http://www.temporarytemples.co.uk/>
- Colin Andrews (CPRI): <http://www.cropcircleinfo.com/>
- Crop Circle Connector: <http://www.cropcircleconnector.com>
- Dutch Centre for Crop Circle Studies: <http://www.dcccs.org>
- Lucy Pringle: <http://www.lucypringle.co.uk/>
- Freddy Silva: <http://www.lovely.clara.net>
- Busty Taylor: <http://www.busty-taylor.com>
- Andy Thomas: <http://www.swirlednews.com>
- Paul Vigay: <http://www.cropcircleresearch.com>



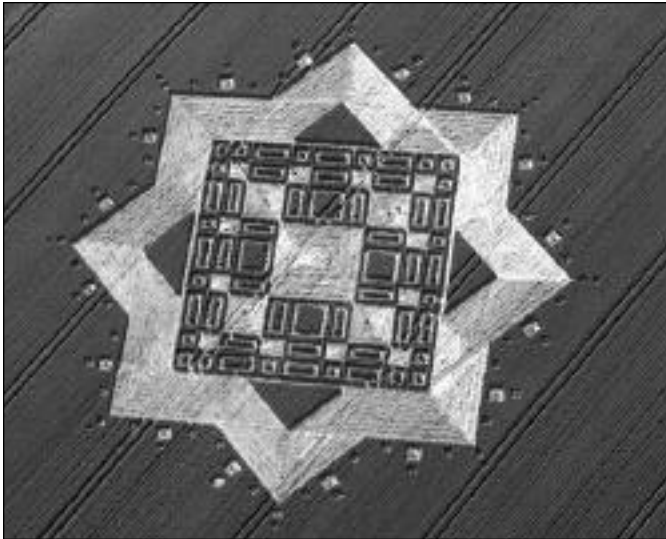
Boxley, near Maidstone, Kent. Reported 17th July.  
Image: Mike Mahoney © 2005.



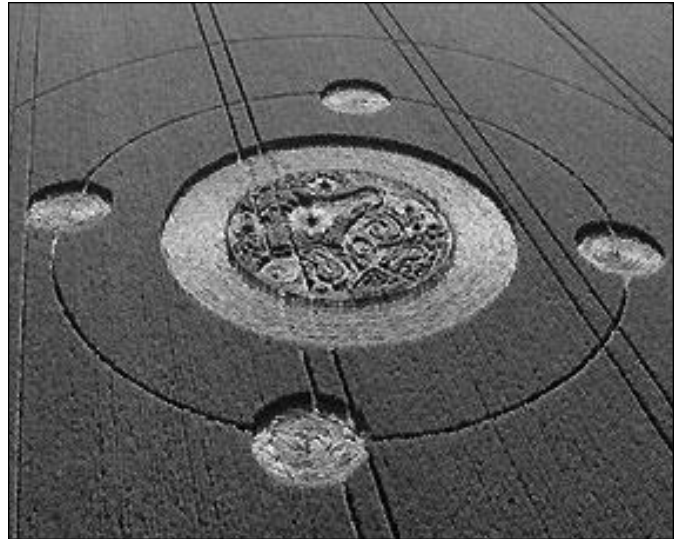
Watlington Road, near Chalgrove, Oxfordshire.  
Reported 22nd July. Image: Andrew King © 2005.



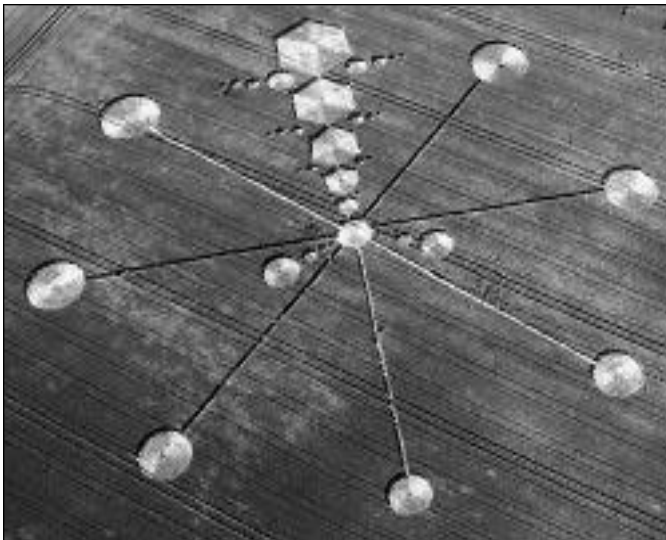
East Field, near Alton Priors, Wiltshire. Reported 21st August.  
Image: Steve Alexander © 2005.



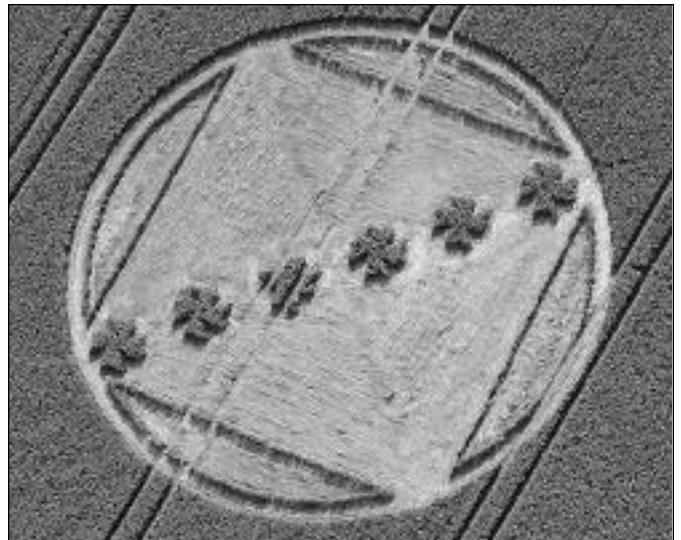
Hundred Acres (East Field), Alton Priors, Wiltshire.  
Reported 3rd July. Image: Crop Circle Connector ©2005.



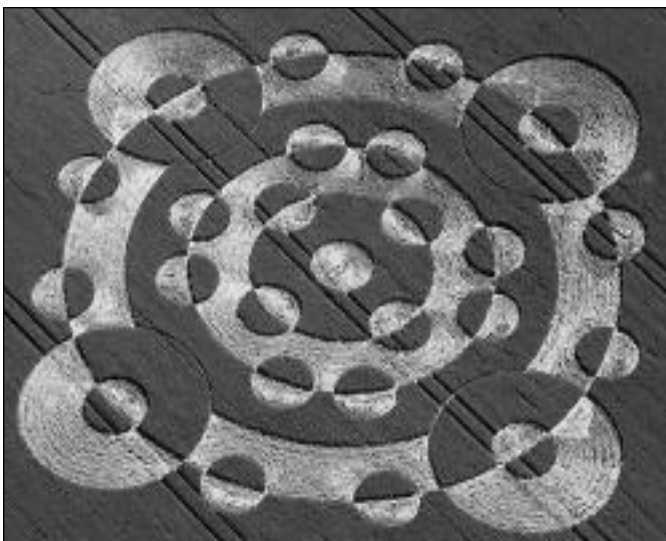
Marden, near Chirton, Wiltshire. Reported 9th August.  
Image: Steve Alexander © 2005.



Milk Hill, near Stanton St Bernard, Wiltshire. Reported 17th July.  
Image: Crop Circle Connector © 2005.



Savernake Forest, near Marlborough, Wiltshire.  
Reported 3rd August. Image: Crop Circle Connector © 2005.

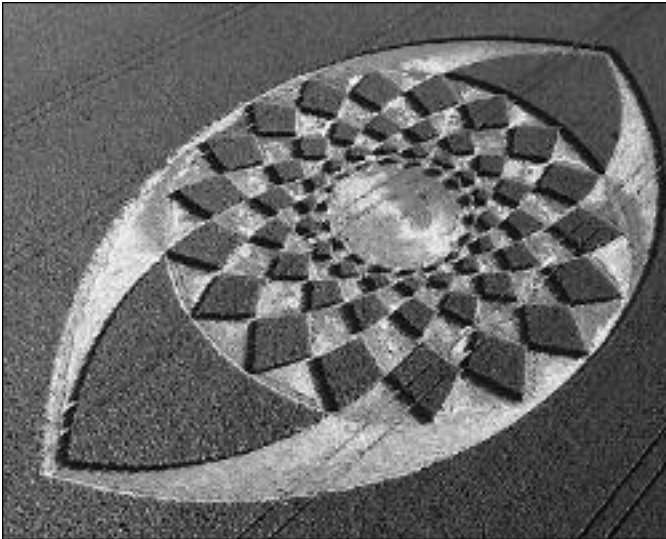


Lurkley Hill, near Lockeridge, Wiltshire. Reported 22nd June.  
Image: Crop Circle Connector © 2005.

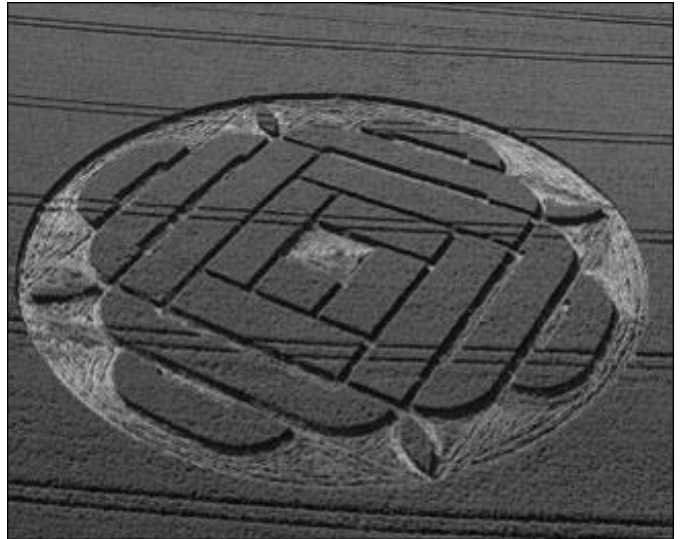


Shalbourne, near Oxenwood, Wiltshire. Reported 7th August.  
Image: Lucy Pringle © 2005.

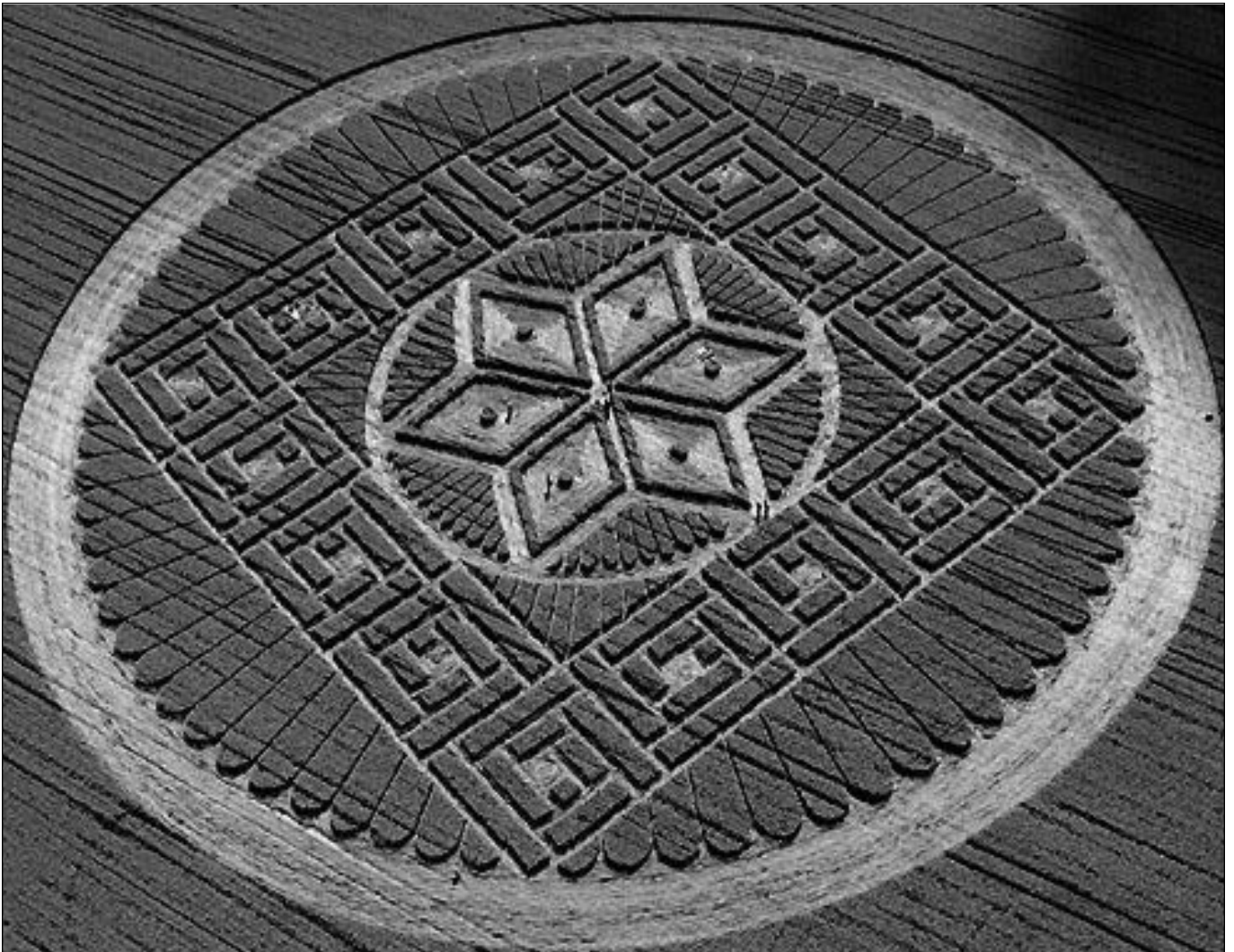




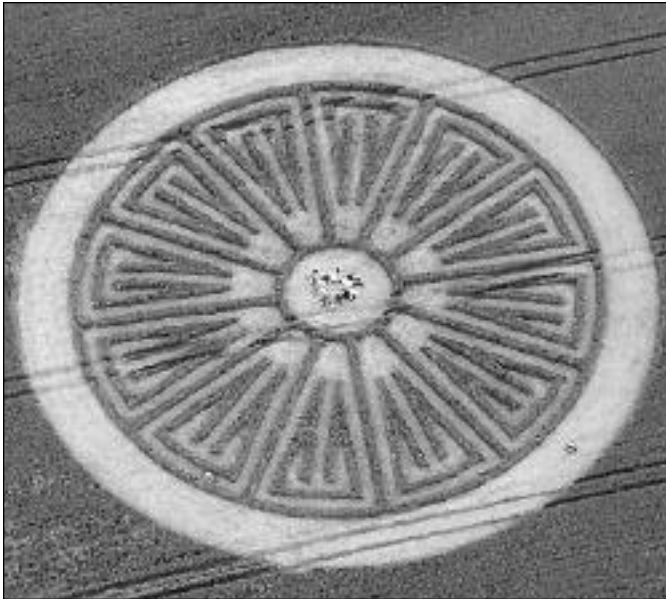
Marden, near Chirton, Wiltshire. Reported 20th August.  
Image: Steve Alexander © 2005.



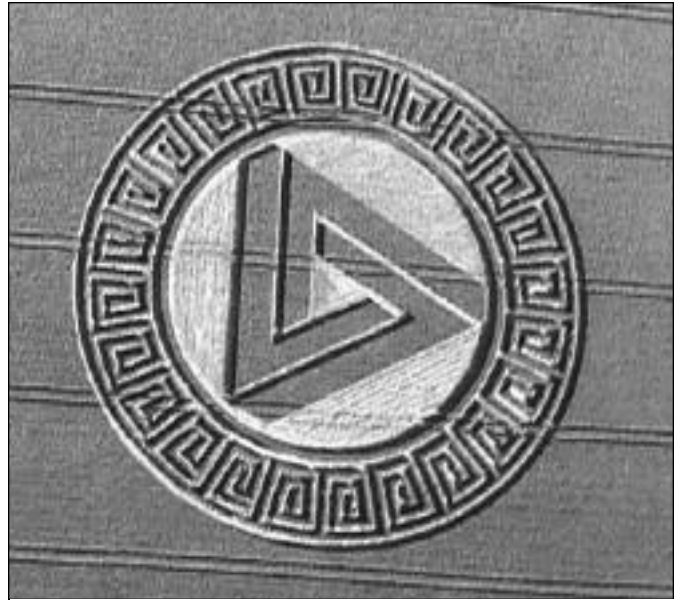
Boreham Down, near Lockeridge, Wiltshire. Reported 22nd June.  
Image: Steve Alexander © 2005.



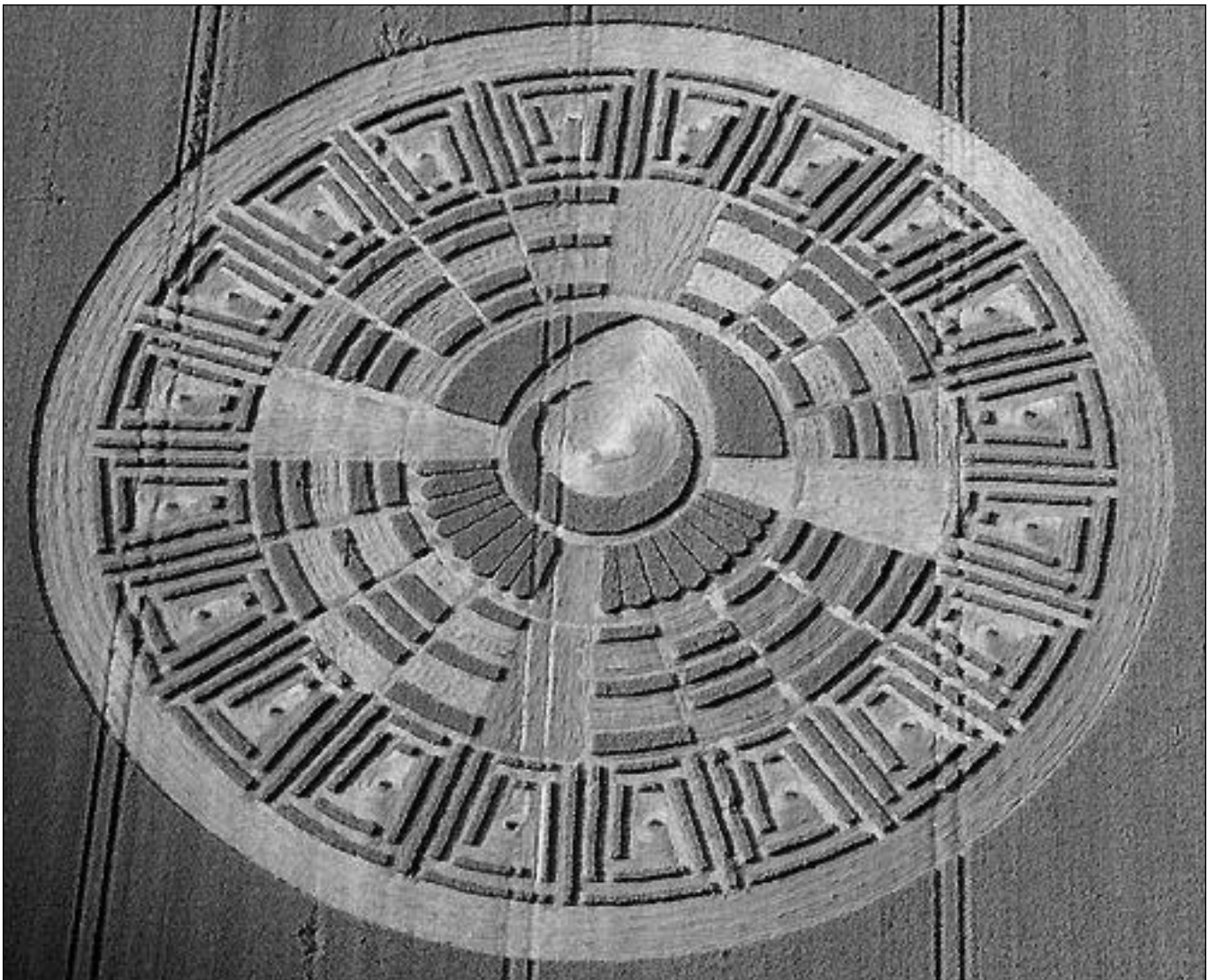
Woolstone Hill, near Uffington, Oxfordshire. Reported 13th August.  
Image: Jaime Maussan © 2005.



East Kennett, near Avebury, Wiltshire. Reported 24th July.  
Image: Steve Alexander © 2005.



Waden Hill, near Avebury, Wiltshire. Reported 16th July.  
Image: Crop Circle Connector © 2005.



Wayland's Smithy, near Ashbury, Oxfordshire. Reported 9th August.  
Image: Crop Circle Connector © 2005.